

Summer 2006

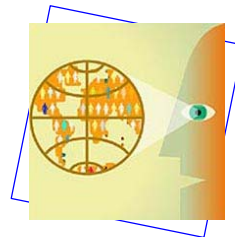


Happy July 4th

Suez Canal 50th anniversary



40 years of  
Freedom of Information Act



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## FOCUS – Summer 2006

This Focus highlights issue(s) dealing with World Press Freedom.

	Page
I. U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	1-3
II. DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW	3-8
III. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES (MUTUAL UNDESTANDING)	9-11
IV. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND TRADE ISSUES	11-14
V. GLOBAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENT	15-16
VI. TRANSLATED BOOKS	17-18

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# **DID YOU KNOW**

**Weekly at IRC**

## **INTERNET BASIC SEARCH SKILLS**

**FOR DETAILS SEE NEXT PAGE**

**Summer 2006**

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## **INTERNET BASIC SEARCH SKILLS**

The IRC is offering a weekly program conducted every Thursday, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., introducing the U.S. Embassy Cairo Web site; the State Department and IIP home pages, as well as the daily Washington File.

We will also look closely at the newly redesigned Cairo IRC Web Page <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/irc/index.htm>)

This course will equip you with the skills for locating the most effective search results. We also will show you how to find news from national and international newspapers. Finally, we will introduce free, high-quality online resources for your research.

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E-mail: [georgeng@state.gov](mailto:georgeng@state.gov) or by phone: 797-3124)

## **I. U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**06138**

**America: Helping the People of Sudan.** Fact sheet, U.S. Department of State, June 12, 2006.  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/2006/67829.htm>

“Sudan is one of the highest foreign policy priorities for President Bush and his administration. Progress in Southern Sudan is seen through the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the first steps toward a resolution to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur with the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)”, the writer says in this fact sheet.

**06139**

**The Iraqi Virtual Science Library.** Fact Sheet, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, June 5, 2006.  
<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/fs/2006/67517.htm>

“The Iraqi Virtual Science Library (IVSL), launched on May 3, 2006, is a digital portal that provides Iraqi universities and research institutes with access to an outstanding collection of millions of full text articles from over 17,000 premier scientific and engineering journals and their archives, in addition to technical content and educational resources. Its goal is to help rebuild the educational and scientific infrastructure in Iraq.

06140

**NATO's Growing Role in the Greater Middle East.**

Paper by Philip Gordon in Emirates Lecture Series, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, 2006.

<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/gordon/emirates20060530.pdf>

NATO will not become a security alliance for the Middle East – as it was for Western Europe – with US and European bases scattered throughout the region. Nonetheless, despite all the differences among NATO members and the obstacles to a NATO role in the Middle East region, the fact remains that the United States and Europe will continue to have significant common security interests there, and NATO remains the best mechanism for coordinating their policies and operations. Those who have for years predicted NATO's demise will, in all likelihood, continue to be confounded. The author says.

06141

**The Pew Global Attitudes Project.** America's Image Slips, But Allies Share U.S. Concerns over Iran, Hamas. June 13, 2006.

<http://pewglobal.org/reports/display.php?ReportID=252>

The Pew Research Center's latest annual survey finds "America's global image has again slipped and support for the war on terrorism has declined even among close allies like Japan." More details find that "Favorable opinions of the U.S. have fallen in most of the 15 countries surveyed, despite some positive feelings in 2005 due in part to US aid for Tsunami victims. The U.S. and major allies share concerns over Iran and Hamas in contrast to opinions in predominantly Muslim countries." as the report states.

06142

**Political Strategies to Counterterrorism.** by Michael Rubin and Suzanne Gershowitz, American Enterprise Institute (AEI,) July 12, 2006

[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all.pubID.24647/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all.pubID.24647/pub_detail.asp)

Terrorism is a growing threat. The September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and subsequent attacks on Madrid's Atocha train station and the London underground signaled that 21st century terrorism was not a problem that could be localized to the Middle East and South Asia. As the terror threat grows and groups like Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah demonstrate worldwide reach, democracies fumble not only for an effective political strategy to combat terrorism, but also for a definition. The article gives details.

## 11. DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW

*Celebrating 4<sup>th</sup> of July,  
40 years Freedom of Information Act, and Voting Rights*

06143

**U.S.: Forty Years of the Freedom of Information Act.**

Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). Tuesday, July 4, 2006

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/07/5F4A80A7-23E4-41DA-B4BC-7B1C6FBF60DC.html>

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a cornerstone of media freedom and open society in the United States, celebrates its 40th anniversary on July 4th.

The law gives every citizen the legal right to file a request for information from any government agency, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The FOIA even gives citizens the right to sue the CIA. RFE/RL correspondent Julie A. Corwin asked Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, D.C., to explain how the FOIA works.

**06144**

**U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event**, USINFO, Dept. of State, By Michael Jay Friedman, June 28, 2006.

**English:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060628141729JMnamdeirF0.745434&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>

**Arabic:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2006&m=June&x=20060629171246amiwahar0.184704>

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday would be “the great anniversary festival. The writer goes into more details about the celebration.

**06145**

**The Voting Rights Act in Perspective Americans Celebrate Anniversary of Voting Rights Act.** By Micheal Jay Friedman. USINFO, Department of States, 27 July 2006

<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Aug/15-884794.html>

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.  
-- President Lyndon Baines Johnson, August 6, 1965.

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06146

**Four African Freedom Activists Honored; USINFO, Dept of State.** By Rachel J. King. June 28, 2006.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=200606281324442jrgnik6.431216e-02>

Four African activists -- two men and two women -- were honored with the 2006 Democracy Award of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) on June 27 for their contributions to the advancement of democracy, human rights, gender equality, government transparency and free and fair elections in their homelands. The article gives details.

06147

**Law Enforcement and Arab American Community Relations after September 11, 2001: Engagement in a Time of Uncertainty.**

Vera Institute of Justice, June 2006.

[http://www.vera.org/publications/publications\\_5.asp?publication\\_id=353](http://www.vera.org/publications/publications_5.asp?publication_id=353)

“This study, one of the first to examine the effects, nationally, of September 11 on law enforcement agencies and communities with high concentrations of Arab American residents, provides a window into current relations between Arab Americans and local and federal law enforcement, as well as the challenges that each of these stakeholders faces in responding to pressures that are increasingly global in nature. It also seeks to understand and document promising outreach practices among these groups.” says the author.

06148

**Responding to the Democracy Promotion Backlash.**

By Thomas Carothers. Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing, June 8, 2006.

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=18416&prog=zgp&proj=zdlr,zme>

The subject of democracy promotion has in recent years moved to the center stage of U.S. foreign policy as a result of the heightened awareness of the strong connections between the state of democracy in the world and vital U.S. national interests. The U.S. government is devoting greater resources than ever before to the task of supporting democracy abroad. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in implementing U.S. democracy assistance programs. Many organizations involved in the democracy field are encountering significant obstacles and difficulties in the current international context, some of which are the result of problematic U.S. policies and some of which are the result of causes outside the control of the United States.

Understanding these new challenges and their causes is crucial to improving the effectiveness of all democracy promotion efforts, governmental and non-governmental alike. The testimony, by Thomas Carothers, Director, Democracy and Rule of Law Project Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C. gives details.

06149

**Think Again: Al Jazeera (AJ).** By Hugh Miles. Foreign Policy, July/August 2006.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3497](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3497)

In FP's "Think Again" feature, the author of Al Jazeera: The Inside Story of the Arab News Channel that is Challenging the West (2005), takes a measured look at attitudes toward Al Jazeera in the U.S. and the Arab world. Miles examines conventional arguments: AJ supports terrorism ("False"), AJ is anti-Semitic ("Wrong"), AJ is spreading political freedom ("Wishful Thinking"), AJ is biased ("True"), AJ is censored ("Not Yet"), AJ wants to compete with CNN and BBC ("Yes, and it plans to"), only Arabs will watch AJ International ("Not so Fast").

06150

**What Do Islamists Really Want? An Insider's Discussion with Islamist Leaders.** By Abdeslam Maghraou. U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). Briefing, May 22, 2006.

[http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace\\_briefings/2006/0522\\_islamists.html](http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace_briefings/2006/0522_islamists.html)

“As part of its "mobilizing the moderates" theme, the Muslim World Initiative of USIP organized an off-the-record roundtable discussion on May 5, 2006, on the viability of democratic politics within an Islamic framework.” The writer says. “The USIP Briefing highlights the central themes and questions that emerged during the discussions.... with reference to "Islamist parties," and their strategies that are the products of local power relations”.

06151

**Why God Is Winning.** By Timothy Samuel Shah and Monica Duffy Toft. Foreign Policy, July/August 2006  
[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/users/login.php?story\\_id=3497&URL=http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3497](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/users/login.php?story_id=3497&URL=http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3497)

The authors assert that modernization and the spread of democracy around the world are enhancing the reach of religious political movements. Religious groups that emerge from democratic processes, such as Hamas in the Palestinian Authority, tend to be more organized, more popular and more legitimate than perhaps religious leaders a few decades ago but not necessarily less violent. In the U.S. 2004 presidential election, religion was a stronger predictor of vote choice than gender, age or class. Although extreme religious ideology is a leading motivation for most transnational terrorist attacks, religion has also mobilized scores of people to oppose authoritarian regimes, inaugurate democratic transitions, support human rights and relieve human suffering.

### III. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

#### *In Celebration of World Cup 2006*

06152

**World Cup Special: Football, Sports and Development.** World Bank, June 2006. (Speculation on impact of national success in major sporting events on a nation's economy)  
<http://rru.worldbank.org/features/worldcup2006.aspx>

For two months every four years, the world stops for the World Cup. It is estimated that 1.3 billion people watched the final of the 2002 World Cup in Japan, a number which is sure to rise this year in Berlin. So, earlier this year, research teams from some of the world's leading investment banks shifted their eyes from stocks and bonds to predicting the winners of this summer's matches in Germany. The reason - studies suggest that success or failure in football (or soccer) may affect a country's economy.

06153

**Young Football Players at World Cup Revel in Matches: State Department initiative emphasizes team building, conflict management.** By Jane Mors. USINFO, Department of State, June 23, 2006.

**English:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060623174131ajesrom7.458133e-02>

**Arabic:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2006&m=June&x=20060626152900amiwahar0.6759302>

It is a very tense time for many football players attending the World Cup matches in Germany. But for a group of 30 young athletes from around the world, attending the football tournament (soccer in the United States) is the highlight of a two-week State Department program that emphasizes teamwork, intercultural understanding and respect, and conflict management.

06154

**International Students Find Friendship through Sports, Arts,** By Cecilia Martin, USINFO, Department of State, June 30, 2006.

**English:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Jul/05-662777.html>

**Arabic:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2006&m=July&x=20060703113150bsibhew0.8440668>

The writer explores how Sports and arts are a means of fostering international goodwill at the World Scholar-Athlete Games in Kingston, Rhode Island, where nearly 2,000 secondary school students from around the globe have gathered for a week of friendly competition and collaboration from June 24 to July 2.

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06155

**Islam: Muslim-Americans to Improve U.S. Image Abroad.**

By Heather Maher, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty. June 16, 2006.

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/06/b47f318d-dcef-4b59-ac09-9a9d33a70805.html>

The article recounts the birth of the State Department's Civic Outreach program as a people-to people initiative designed to counter the negative image of America in the world.

06156

**Life Lessons: How Soap Operas Can Change the World.** Hannah Rosin. New Yorker, Vol. 82, No. 16, June 5, 2006.

<http://www.changemakers.net/library/temp/newyorkersoapoperas.cfm>

Drama serials, originating in the 1950s in the United States as long-running daytime "soap operas," have proven to be the most enduring and popular form of television programming. Now known worldwide as telenovelas, these TV and radio programs are being transformed in many countries as vehicles to teach literacy, combat AIDS, fight domestic abuse, and encourage civic participation. The article describes how New York-based Population Communications International works with the United Nations and USAID, as well as grassroots community groups and social workers, to develop scripts that reflect the cultures and traditions of their audiences in poor countries while transmitting messages of empowerment.

## **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND TRADE**

06157

**Governance and Private Investment in the Middle East and North Africa.** World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3934, June 2006.

<http://ideas.repec.org/p/wbk/wbrwps/3934.html>

The writer states that "This paper addresses the issue of the low level of private investment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with special emphasis on the role of governance." Based on the existing literature, the authors categorize what types of governance institutions are more detrimental to entrepreneurial investments.

He concludes that "This result is particularly true in the case of "administrative quality " in the form of control of corruption, bureaucratic quality, investment-friendly profile of administration, and law and order, as well as for political stability. "These findings bring new empirical evidence on the subject of private investment in the developing world and in MENA countries in particular." says the author giving details.

**06158**

**High Level Delegation to Attend Global Summit of Women June 9-12, 2006.** Media note, Office of the spokesman, U.S. Department of State, June 7, 2006  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/67678.htm>

Under Secretary of State for Management, Henrietta H. Fore led the U.S. delegation to the Global Summit of Women in Cairo, Egypt, June 9-12. Global respect for women is a foreign policy imperative, and the United States supports the Global Summit of Women for its emphasis on women's economic advancement. The article gives details.

**06159**

**Two Myths of Globalization.** By A. Edward Gottesman.  
World Policy Journal, vol. 23, no. 1, Spring 2006  
<http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/articles/wpj06-2/gottesman.html>

The author notes that an economic discussion of globalization has often focused on two widely accepted, but mainly misunderstood, theories. First, China is the "next economic superpower. The second myth is that the current-account deficit the U.S. has run for a number of years (about a third from trade with China) is "unsustainable" and will result in some global economic catastrophe.



The author writes that if we want to make sense of globalization, we need to re-focus our thinking about globalization by not comparing apples (the mature Western industrial economies) with oranges (the economies of what used to be called the underdeveloped countries, now designated as developing countries or newly industrialized countries -- NCIs, for short). In a global free market, the accumulated wealth and productive resources built up over three hundred years in Europe and in North America are the main source of financing, either directly or indirectly, for the growth of these NCIs. Debunking these theories of globalization requires an attempt to put the world economy in perspective so that one can understand the complex and often fragile process of globalization.

**06160**

**U.S.-Arab Economic Forum Confronts Cultural**

**Misunderstandings:** State's Hughes calls for open economies, open minds, open dialogue. By David Shelby, USINFO, Department of State, June 27, 2006.

**English:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060627112628SDyblehS0.6745569>

**Arabic:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2006&m=June&x=20060627161250bsibhew9.075344e-03>

“Misunderstanding between the Arab world and the United States is a two-way street, according to Under Secretary of State Karen Hughes, and if the two sides are to build a more hopeful future, they must address this problem together by fostering open economies, open minds and open dialogue” says the writer.

06161

**U.S. To Issue Redesigned \$5 Note in 2008, USINFO,** By Elizabeth Kelleher, Dept. of State, June 29, 2006.

**English:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060628181105berehellek0.6466333>

**Arabic:** <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-arabic&y=2006&m=June&x=20060630113440bsibhew0.8109509>

The U.S. government announced June 29 plans to issue a redesigned \$5 note in 2008 and to follow it with a redesigned \$100 note within months.

06162

**U.S. Trade Deficit and the Impact of Rising Oil Prices.** James K. Jackson. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service (CQR), June 9, 2006.

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/06may/RS22204.pdf>

“Petroleum prices have risen sharply since early 2004. At the same time the average amount of imports of energy-related petroleum products has fallen slightly. The combination of sharply rising prices and a slightly lower level of imports of energy-related petroleum products translate into an escalating cost for those imports. This rising cost added an estimated \$70 billion to the nation's trade deficit in 2005 and could add \$80-\$100 billion in 2006, depending on how sustainable is the rate of recent price increases. This report provides an estimate of the initial impact of the rising oil prices on the nation's merchandise trade deficit and will be updated as warranted by events.”

## V. GLOBAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENT

06163

**Clean Energy Solutions.** E-Journal, USINFO, Department of State, July 2006

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0706/ijee/ijee0706.htm>

The E-Journal focuses on the production and usage of energy, the new technologies that can reduce our dependency on oil; other fossil fuels and limiting greenhouse gas emissions. It features an introduction by Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and a contribution by Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky on the critical role of energy in policies designed to support sustainable development. The journal is being issued just prior to the meeting of the G-8 leaders in St. Petersburg, where energy security is expected to be a major topic.

06164

**Rescuing a Planet Under Stress.** By Lester R. Brown.  
The Futurist, vol. 40, no. 4, July-August 2006.

<http://www.energybulletin.net/17779.html>

“The Earth cannot sustain the levels of energy and resource consumption of the Western lifestyle if it is adopted by hundreds of millions of people in developing nations”, writes the President of the Earth Policy Institute. The world must move toward a new economic model powered by renewable energy -- such as wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels -- and by a manufacturing strategy which designs and creates all products for ultimate recycling. Brown suggests movement to an honest market which gives weight to factors currently overlooked or ignored -- the indirect prices of production, the cost of environmental damage and consequences to future generations.” with more details.

06165

**Urban Watershed Management: Sustainability, One Stream at a Time.** By Rutherford Platt. Environment, May 1, 2006  
<http://www.knowledgeplex.org/news/170863.html?p=1>

The author, professor of geography at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, writes that modern cities have tended to cut the bonds between humans and the natural world, at the same time have had a growing adverse impact on their natural surroundings. The article features successful urban watershed management programs in Washington, D.C., Boston, Houston, and Portland, Oregon.

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**A special issue celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Suez Canal is forthcoming. This special issue will examine the Suez Canal from multiple perspectives, collected from the scholarly and popular literature over a fifty-year period.**

## كتب مترجمة إلى العربية



### السفر في الزمن

تأليف : مادلين لانجيل

ترجمة : أحمد محمد حسن

### A Wrinkle in Time

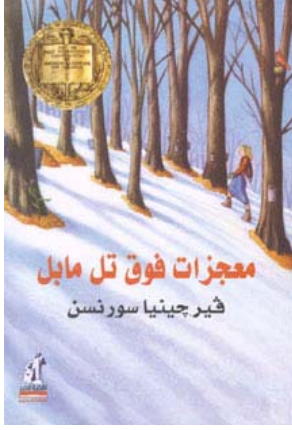
By Madeleine Langel

Translated by Ahmed Hassen Mohamed

فى منتصف ليلة مظلمة كانت ميج مورى وشقيقها الصغير و تشارلز والاس وأمهما فى المطبخ يتناولون بعض الأطعمة فجأة وصلت أكثر الزوار إزعاجا قالت لهم المخلوقة غير الأرضية: الليالى الموحشة محل اعتزازى.. لقد انحرفت عن مسارى دعونى أجلس دقيقة ثم أرحل . هل تعلمون أن هناك شيئا يسمى البعد التناظرى لمكعب؟ والد ميج يجرى اختبارات على البعد الخامس للسفر فى الزمن كان عندما اختفى فى فى ظروف غامضة .. الآن وانت ميج وصديقها كالفن وتشارلز والاس الفرصة لإنقاذه.. لكن هل سيمكنهم التغلب على قوى الشر التى سيواجهونها فى رحلتهم عبر الفضاء – التى تحبس الأنفاس . هذه القصة فى إطارها العام تصلح لأن تكون خيالا علميا إلا أنها ليست كذلك. هناك سر .. تأمل مبهم .. شعور يتعذر تعريفه .. رعب يلف الرحلة كلها ..

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# معجزات فوق تل مابل

تأليف : فيرجينيا سورنسن

ترجمة : نبيلة النقراشي

## Miracles on Maple Hill

By Virginia Sorensen

Translated by Nabile El-Nokrashy

كانت مارلى قد انتظرت هذه اللحظة الخاصة لفترة طويلة ، لقد جلست وحيدة في السيارة ، وأخذت تحملق في الريف المنعزل ، والبيت الخرب.

إنه بالتأكيد المكان الصحيح. كل شيء في الهواء الطلق، وبه معجزات، ليس مزدحماً وناسه خبثاء وغير شرفاء.

الأب ليس مرهقاً طيلة الوقت، والأم غير قلقة. وهمست: "أتوسل إليك أن تحدث معجزة".

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## Resources for Researchers

- **A QUICK GLANCE AT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**  
<http://www.uspolicy.be>
- **WASHINGTON FILE: MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA EDITION**  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/>
- **LEGAL RESEARCH EXCHANGE:** especially valuable to legal (comparative law and international law) researchers, and those researching Business and Trade topics  
<http://www.llrx.com>
- **SCOUT REPORT: A weekly listing of new Internet sites in all subject areas.** (This offers a free subscription to the service)  
<http://scout.wisc.edu/mailman/listinfo/scout-report-html>
- **PINAKES: A SUBJECT GATEWAY TO INTERNET RESOURCES (FROM THE U.K.)**  
<http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irn/pinakes/pinakes2.html>

(To be continued)

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